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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC General Information on the German Volkspolizei

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 19 March 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 31 January 1951, it was learned that the VP school in Aschersleben (M 52/D 55) consisted of 750 police, including about 700 recruits. A course of instruction for officers, directed by VP Oberkommissar Heinrich Rode and attended by 40 VP officers, has also been conducted there since the end of January 1951. [redacted] the officers' course was designed for the theoretical training of tank officers. In the class rooms there were instruction charts showing various types of tanks and sand tables with miniature tanks. (1)
2. In mid-January 1951, it was learned at the municipal administration in Butzow (K 54/T 79) that the Treibergen penitentiary and 80 civilian apartments would soon be vacated for the quartering of VP personnel. (2)
3. In mid-January 1951, it was learned that VP personnel from Apolda (M 52/J 67) had arrived at the VP school in Grossenhain (N 52/A 01). The former riding hall was being converted into a kitchen. A target range was under construction at the Kleinraschuetz (N 52/A 01) training grounds, where no training was conducted at that time. A motor vehicle of the VP unit in Grossenhain [redacted]
4. On 26 January, numerous VP officer candidates, VP Oberwachmeister, and VP Hauptwachmeister were seen in the Kluever Kaserne on Paracelsusstrasse, Halle (M 52/D 92). The last two categories apparently belonged to the instructors staff. The barracks installation was guarded by two VP sentries wearing fur clothes and equipped with carbines. (1)
5. On 22 January, the former RAD (Reich Labor Service) camp at the edge of the woods about 500 meters east-southeast of Klietz (M 53/Y 96) was occupied to capacity by a VP unit with 1,250 men. On the same day, about 300 police practiced lake crossings over the northern section of Klietz Lake in 20 pneumatic rafts, each raft being rowed with spades by 2 to 4 men. Several officers and NCOs received the boats at the western shore of the lake and, upon a short critique, had them return to the other side. At the same time, a unit of about 200 police equipped with carbines and spades left the camp for the woods, while three platoons,

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each about 50 men strong, were engaged in formation drill in the yard of the billeting area. (5)

6. On 3 February, a VP unit, allegedly a Bereitschaft, was stationed in Kuestrin-Altstadt (O 53/V 66).

the unit numbered 1.430 police. The VP unit was recently furnished with T-34 tanks for training purposes by a Soviet unit from Neuruppin (N 53/E 49). Police were trained daily with the tanks for three hours. The unit was further equipped with numerous German light machine guns, about 17 trucks and 4 or 5 passenger cars.

It was learned that, effective 1 January 1951, the VP Bereitschaft in Kuestrin-Altstadt has allegedly become an armored training school.

7. On 25 January, it was learned that guard personnel at the police barracks installation on Jonny Scheerstrasse, Loip-zig-Gohlis (N 52/E 21), was essentially reinforced recently. Two instead of one sentry were placed at numerous points along the barracks fence. Two 3-man radio sections equipped with model B field radio sets left the barracks installation toward Landsbergerstrasse on 25 January. (7)

8. About 150 new trucks and 40 crates containing gun barrels were seen in the warehouses of the VP ordnance depot in Lichtenberg (N 53/Z 95) on 4 January. the last shipment of about 20 trucks arrived there on 3 January. the engines of the new trucks were sealed. Only guard personnel were seen at the depot on 4 January.

9. At about 3 p.m. on 19 January, a VP unit of about 50 men carrying field equipment and commanded by a VP Kommissar marched along Karl Marxstrasse, Stralsund (N 55/P 44), toward Daenholm Island. The police wore a green shield on the upper part of their left sleeve with a large white G in it. About half of the police had German shepherd dogs with them. Passenger car driven by a member of the Seepolizei, was identified on Neuer Markt. (8)

10. Between 22 and 24 January, 500 to 600 Seepolizei each were stationed at the VP posts of Ahlbeck (N 54/L 21) and Zinnowitz (N 55/L 02). The Seepolizei in both localities were seen engaged in basic infantry drill.

11. Between 22 and 24 January, it was observed that, in a former factory area about 1 km southwest of the Wolgast-Stadt railroad station, six two-story brick buildings were under construction next to four old, two-story factory sheds, on orders of the Volkspolizei. A sentry of the Seepolizei, equipped with a submachine gun, guarded the gate to the factory area. Other Seepolizei sentries equipped with carbines stood guard at several earth bunkers between the buildings. Occupied by two officers, jeep entered the installation on 22 January. (9)

Comments.

- (1) The VP Grenzielrbereitschaft of Land Saxony-Anhalt was previously identified in Aschersleben. The strength estimate of 750 police in the present report agrees with previous information. It is doubted that VP tank officers should be trained there. They were probably trained in the identification of tanks, which was also observed with other Grenzpolizei units.
- (2) To date, only a training school for police dogs was known to be located in Buetzow. The information on a forthcoming occupation of installations in Buetzow requires confirmation.
- (3) the new VP Bereitschaft is carried in Grossenhain. The reassignment to Grossenhain of some of the

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- personnel of the deactivated former 10th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Apolda was previously confirmed. [REDACTED]
- (4) Only guard details were previously observed in the Kluever Kaserne, Halle, which had been vacated by the Soviets in the fall of 1950. [REDACTED] It is believed that a new HVA Bereitschaft or school will be established there.
- (5) A 1,000-man VP Bereitschaft was reportedly stationed in the quarters of the former 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) in Kietz. [REDACTED] It is therefore believed that, also in Kietz, a new mixed VP Bereitschaft has also been activated. [REDACTED]
- (6) The information on a VP Bereitschaft in Kuestrin-Altstadt has not been confirmed. Only a Grenzpolizei Kommando was reportedly stationed in Kuestrin following the transfer of the former 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) from Kuestrin-Kietz to Potsdam.
- (7) Prior to the reorganization of HVA units, the 2nd VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was carried in the Planitz Kaserne on Jomny Schocorstrasse, Leipzig. Though not confirmed, it is possible that a new mixed VP Bereitschaft is stationed in the installation.
- (8) According to their arm badge, the police belonged to the VP Grenzbereitschaft in Stralsund, which is a component of the Grenze Nord of Land Mecklenburg.
- (9) The jeep belonged to the Soviet Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

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